

McCone County

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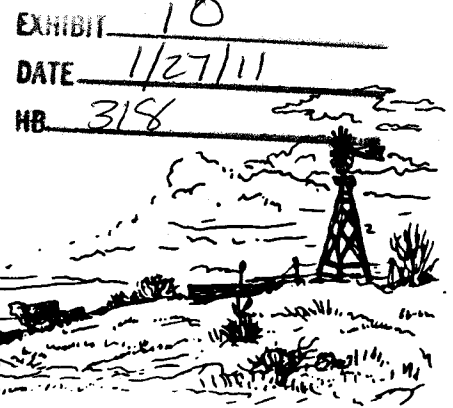


EXHIBIT 10
DATE 1/27/11
HB 318

January 26, 2011

House Agriculture Committee

Representative Krayton Kerns, Chairman	Representative Edith McClafferty
Representative Bob Wagner, Vice Chairman	Representative Jonathan McNiven
Representative Joanne Blyton	Representative Pat Noonan
Representative Christy Clark	Representative Carolyn Pease-Lopez
Representative Lila Evans	Representative Lee Randall
Representative Steve Kirkpatrick	Representative Joe Read
Representative Timothy Furey	Representative Daniel Salomon
Representative Alan Hale	Representative Sterling Small
Representative Brian Hoven	Representative Frank Smith
Representative David Howard	Representative Kathleen Williams
Representative Margaret MacDonald	

RE: HB 318

For the record, I am Connie Eissinger, McCone County Commissioner. Next year, my family will have farmed and ranched west of Brockway for a hundred years.

The McCone County Commissioners and my family supports House Bill 318, requiring approval of the Board of County Commissioners before the Departments of Livestock or Fish, Wildlife and Parks may authorize any movement of wild buffalo or bison certified as brucellosis-free into a Montana county.

The efforts made by members of this legislature to protect and defend the livelihood of agricultural producers are greatly appreciated by county commissioners, as well as farmers and ranchers.

As many of you know, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks recently toured the state, holding public informational meetings as a forewarning that we, in agriculture, had to get used to the idea that there "are going to be" free-roaming bison and that we can do nothing to change the direction of this movement.

One of the meetings was held in Circle. Around 70 farmers and ranchers, along with a few townspeople attended the meeting. Senator Jim Peterson and Senator Taylor Brown were in attendance, as well, and we appreciated their attendance greatly. The questions asked and a great number of valid concerns were aired in complete opposition to the proposal. At the end of the meeting, one of McCone County's former county commissioners asked for a show of hands of those in opposition to the Fish, Wildlife and Parks proposal to put free-roaming bison somewhere in Eastern Montana. Every hand—all 70 went up. There is no support from our constituents for this proposal.

House Bill 318 puts in place necessary safeguards to control bison and prevent the issues that will surely arise between Fish, Wildlife and Parks and farmers and ranchers who have built their operations through generations of hard work.

Please vote to support HB 318. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Connie Eissinger, Commissioner

McCone County